

465 illustrated by the following table:

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Table 7. Cost of Living Index and Real Wages.

Year	Cost of Living Index	Real wages (in cents) earned for one hour's work
1923	95.0	95.9
1927	97.8	96.4
1930	96.5	108.1
1935	82.3	118.2
1939	104.2	123.0

465 Salaries of white-collar workers varied. Low salaries were earned by clerical workers (about 80 kroons monthly), and beginning elementary school teachers (about 100 kroons monthly for 12 months). Gymnasium teachers received higher salaries, about 180-220 kroons monthly for 12 months. University professor's salaries averaged 350 kroons a month all year.

464 There are no statistics for the Estonian SSR. Deportations have drastically decreased the

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1q,

Sociological Background

PUBLIC WELFARE

511 During the years of independence a remarkable improvement occurred in the diet, clothing and housing of the population of Estonia.

434 Diet. For several years after World War I the average worker had to spend as much as 60 per cent of his income for food. The budget examination in 1937-38 revealed that factory workers, on an average, spent 41.8 per cent and agricultural workers 52.4 per cent of their income on food. At the same time, however, the diet had 262 improved considerably. The average member of an Estonian working class family consumed daily:

	<u>grams</u>
bread, flour products, grits	481

262 rye bread and sweet-sour rye bread; cold meat jelly (sült) cooked with pigs' feet, head, and veal, and spiced with pepper, onion, bay leaves, and carrots; blood sausage (verivorst) made of grits and blood savored with special spices; sauerkraut with pork; cranberry "kissell"; and a special platter cake made with a topping of cottage cheese and eggs, either sweet or salty (korp).

- 511 During the war and occupation periods the Estonian food supply was extremely inadequate, especially in the cities. The rations given to the civilians by the Nazis were so small that, according to Estonian doctors' estimates, an active person could live on them only eight [437] months without becoming seriously ill. It is therefore not surprising that the black market was extensively used. Since World War II,

● 511 food has been scarce in Estonia because many of the cattle were slaughtered during the course of the war and the collectivization of agriculture has probably brought productivity down. Today there is a special scarcity of meat, butter, milk, and bread, to name only the more important items.

Clothing was completely adequate during the independence period and Estonia belonged among [565] the well-dressed nations. Due to the lack of class distinctions, there were no striking contrasts in clothing. At the eve of the last World War the people were, on the whole, so well equipped with clothing that they managed to remain throughout the war decently dressed even though at that time clothing was not to be bought. The postwar period has been worse,

● 511 of course. There is a constant shortage of consumer goods and, even if they are available, the average person cannot afford them. Manufactured goods are mostly sent to Russia. Nevertheless, recent refugees from the Estonian SSR have told that people from Russia proper like to come to Estonia and the other Baltic states because the standard of living there, despite the war devastation, is still higher than in those parts of the U. S. S. R. which have been under Soviet rule since 1918. Furthermore, the Estonians seem to be especially skilled at remaking clothing from used material or from the new material they occasionally are able to get hold of.

292 National costumes, different in pattern according to counties, are still occasionally worn in Estonia. Men's national costumes are very rare and are worn only at performances of

464 during the depression this number rose to about
[745] 8000. Emergency relief work was organized
by the local governments every winter. In the
summertime Estonia was in great need of work-
ers for farming and mining, so much so that
workers were even imported from Poland for
this purpose.

746 In summary, social conditions in Estonia at
the end of independence were quite satisfactory
and constant improvement was being made.
The public conscience was alert to the problems
of poverty, disease and unemployment. Each
winter public enterprises (balls, concerts, etc.)
were arranged, the income of which was given
entirely to the needy unemployed. The churches,
too, did work in helping the poor and sick.

511 The last World War, and especially the Soviet
occupations, have drastically lowered the

- 5// standard of living. There are today insufficient food rations again and the people have to spend their small incomes for buying high-priced black market goods. Although clothing is not rationed, it is extremely scarce and very expensive.

466 Working conditions in Estonia today are the same as elsewhere in the Soviet Union. The Labor Law does not protect the worker and the workers are, as a result, being considerably exploited. The work days are longer and there are many kinds of "voluntary" work to be performed after the day's work. The women and the youth are not protected by law from heavy and dangerous work. (For more details see Subparagraph 1m, LABOR FORCE)²_n

¹[see cat. 116, pp 256-274 -- Analyst]

474 officials with their own men and put the co-op-
441 eratives under the dual control of the People's
Commissariat for Trade and "Tsentsosoiuz,"
the Moscow co-operative headquarters. As a
result, with orders coming from both quarters,
there was much confusion. The co-operative
movement was very popular in independent Es-
tonia; there were 208 societies with 600 shops,
handling over one-fourth of the retail and about
one-half of the export trade, with a monopoly of
butter, eggs and bacon. Under the Communist
rule workshops and restaurants were all incor-
porated in the co-operatives. Prior to kolkhoza-
tion the trading operations of the farmers were
also controlled by Communist co-operatives.

- [50] Due to the shortage of consumer goods the
co-operatives are not able to supply the people
with the articles they are entitled to buy.

511 *Way of life. According To all descriptions*
of the living conditions of the Vepsians at the
end of the czarist rule and the beginning of the
Bolshevik reign, their life seems to be quite
primitive. Kettunen, upon his first arrival at
Vepse in 1917, was overcome by the charm of
this primitiveness (p. 41): "I at once felt as
though I had arrived at the primitive Balto-
Finnic imaginary land, where I had sometimes
[493] wished to be, at least for a while." There are
villages to which one cannot go by carriage in
summer, but only on foot; for carrying loads a
511 kind of sleigh (purilazh) is used. Quite a num-
342 ber of houses are without chimneys, so that
the smoke can only escape by the doors and
windows. Some of the huts are not even rain-
proof; Kettunen tells that in a Vepsian house in
Pjatina (Russian: Pyatino) they all were bother-
ed by rain at night. There are no beds in the
houses, and the people sleep on benches attach-
ed to the walls, or on the oven, or even on the
floor. During the cold winters the Vepsians,
following the Russian model, used to bring
young animals into the room. Kettunen some-
times had to share his working room not only
with other people but also with calves and
poultry.

[343] The bathhouse is rather a rarity in
515 Vepse. Instead, the people used to bathe in
the oven of the dwelling house. When the oven
is heated, and some straw spread on its floor,
one member of the family carefully crawls into
it, feet first, so as not to touch the hot mouth
of the oven. The oven is spacious enough for
one person to sit. After he is in, he closes

Wages and Hours of Labor

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TABLE 3.—Monthly Wages of Agricultural Laborers and Cost-of-Living Indexes in Estonia, 1933 to 1937

Year	Monthly wage (in krooni) of laborers on—						General cost-of-living index (1913=100)
	Yearly contract		Summer contract		Day work		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1933.....	14.4	10.7	19.5	14.7	20.0	22.5	88
1934.....	16.7	11.8	22.7	16.6	33.3	30.4	87
1935.....	18.7	13.1	26.2	18.4	38.4	31.2	88
1936.....	22.1	16.0	30.9	22.3	45.6	35.8	96
1937.....	27.2	19.5	38.1	27.1	55.0	43.2	104

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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

There were partial increases in wage rates in Estonia in 1937, particularly in seasonal industries, such as the building trades and others. In table 4 average hourly wages and hours of labor per day are presented, according to size of establishment and by sex, for 1936 and 1937.

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TABLE 4.—Average Hourly Wages and Average Hours Per Day of Industrial Workers in Estonia, 1936 and 1937

[Average exchange rate of Estonian sent in 1937—about 6.37 cent, U. S. currency]

Industrial enterprises employing—	Average hourly wages				Average hours of labor per day							
	1936		1937		First half of—				Second half of—			
					1936		1937		1936		1937	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
50 or more workers.....	Senti 37.4	Senti 24.3	Senti 40.5	Senti 25.8	8.06	7.91	8.11	7.79	8.12	7.84	8.14	7.85
20 to 49 workers.....	34.9	21.3	37.6	23.5	8.10	7.73	8.08	7.91	8.05	7.90	8.22	7.87
5 to 19 workers.....	30.9	19.5	33.0	20.8	7.91	7.78	7.91	7.85	7.96	7.79	7.95	7.79
Less than 5 workers.....	24.1	14.7	28.3	15.6								

Average hourly wage rates of industrial workers in Estonia are presented in table 5, for the second half of 1937, according to size of establishment and by sex and industry.